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REMARKS

AUG 11 2006

The applicants have studied the Office Action dated February 17, 2006. It is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Claims 4, 8 and 9 have been amended and claims 1-2 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Reconsideration and allowance of all of the claims in view of the following remarks are respectfully requested.

The Examiner objected to claims 4, 8 and 9. In claim 4, lines 5-7 recites "a first, second, third, fourth, fifth, and sixth [[buffer]] buffers, each of the buffers having an input, an output, and a single control input, and wherein said single control inputs enable and disable the coupling of signals through said buffers, and wherein." The word "input" in line 6 does not need to be amended to "inputs" since the phrase recites "each of the buffers having an input, an output, and a single control input." Also, line 6 further recites "wherein said single control inputs (in all of the buffers) enable and disable the coupling of signals through said buffers", so words "enable" and "disable" should not be amended.

In addition, lines 21-22 recites "selectively enable bi-directional interconnection of the second interface and third interface." The word "interface" in line 22 should not be amended since the claim recites "second interface and third interface" and not "second and third interface(s)." The word "interface" in line 25 also should not be amended for the same reason.

Claims 8-9 have been amended to overcome the objection.

Claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,195,335 to Calvignac et al. (hereinafter Calvignac) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,933,449 to Meyer (hereinafter Meyer).

Claims 1-2 have been canceled, so the rejection is now moot. The applicants thank the Examiner for allowing claims 4-17.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application and all of the claims are in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application are requested.

If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge such fees to our Deposit Account No. 17-0026. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 not accounted for, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account. A duplicate copy of this page is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated:

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